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Subject: Re: Deleting a variable from a NetCDF file  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 21:02:26 GMT  
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alexzcervantes@gmail.com wrote:

> Hi,  
>  
> I am pretty new to idl, and I could find out an answer to my problem in  
> the idl helper program.  
>  
> Does anyone know how to delete a variable from a NetCDF file?

I don't believe you can. At least, not via the netCDF API. Neither the C, F95, nor IDL netCDF API has any details about deleting a variable from a file once it's in there. Just creating, writing and reading one.

The Java API has a removeVariable method, but I don;t know if even that does what you want (it removes a variable from a netCDF group, as opposed to a file)

paulv

--

Paul van Delst            Ride lots.  
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP/EMC            Eddy Merckx  
Ph: (301)763-8000 x7748  
Fax:(301)763-8545

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Subject: Re: Deleting a variable from a NetCDF file  
Posted by [alexzcervantes@gmail.](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 21:53:21 GMT  
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I was afraid of that.

How about overwriting a variable in a NetCDF file?

My problem is that I have to overwrite a variable in a NetCDF file. I was thinking of deleting the variable, and then writing my new variable.

Is there a flag that will allow me to just overwrite the variable?

Alex

Paul Van Delst wrote:

> alexzcervantes@gmail.com wrote:  
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>>  
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Subject: Re: Deleting a variable from a NetCDF file  
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 22:03:08 GMT  
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alexzcervantes@gmail.com wrote:  
> How about overwriting a variable in a NetCDF file?  
>  
> My problem is that I have to overwrite a variable in a NetCDF file. I  
> was thinking of deleting the variable, and then writing my new  
> variable.  
>  
> Is there a flag that will allow me to just overwrite the variable?

Will the new variable have the same data type and dimensions as the original? Then just rename it (NCDF\_VARRENAME) and then overwrite the data (NCDF\_VARPUT).

Otherwise you have to make a new file, copy over all the stuff you want to keep, add the new stuff. The netCDF operators (NCO) are good for this sort of thing:

<http://nco.sourceforge.net/>

--  
Mark Hadfield                "Kei puwaha te tai nei, Hoea tahi tatou"  
m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz  
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)

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Subject: Re: Deleting a variable from a NetCDF file  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 25 Jul 2006 14:35:05 GMT  
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Mark Hadfield wrote:

> alexzcervantes@gmail.com wrote:  
>  
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>  
>  
> Will the new variable have the same data type and dimensions as the  
> original? Then just rename it (NCDF\_VARRENAME) and then overwrite the  
> data (NCDF\_VARPUT).

Also, do you want to overwrite the variable+data, or just the data associated with the variable? If the former, then Mark's suggestions will do the trick. If the latter, then all you need to do is replace the data (using the varput routine).

paulv

> Otherwise you have to make a new file, copy over all the stuff you want  
> to keep, add the new stuff. The netCDF operators (NCO) are good for this  
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Subject: Re: Deleting a variable from a NetCDF file  
Posted by [alexzcervantes@gmail.](#) on Wed, 26 Jul 2006 16:34:09 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Thanks Paul!

Overwriting did the trick.

Alex

Paul Van Delst wrote:

> Mark Hadfield wrote:

>> alexzcervantes@gmail.com wrote:

>>

>>> How about overwriting a variable in a NetCDF file?

>>>

>>> My problem is that I have to overwrite a variable in a NetCDF file. I

>>> was thinking of deleting the variable, and then writing my new

>>> variable.

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> variable? If the former, then Mark's suggestions will do the trick. If the latter, then

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> paulv

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>> <http://nco.sourceforge.net/>

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>

>

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